(a) whether it is a fact that a Public Sector Undertaking had sought financial support from the Government to implement four vital projects costing Rs. 675 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the timely clearance is required from the Government to extend the export proposals received by the Public Sector Undertakings producing defence related equipments; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to clear the export related proposals on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has sought financial support from the Planning Commission to implement four projects costing Rs. 655 crore.

These projects are:

(i) Establishment of Micro & Nano Technology based Design, Fabrication & Testing facilities at BEL, Bangalore.

(ii) Establishment of facility for multijunction Gallium Arsenide based Solar Cells at BEL, Bangalore.

(iii) Establishment of facilities with Transfer of Technology for manufacture of Infra-Red(IR) Detectors & Detector Dewar Cooler Assembly for Thermal Imaging Equipment at BEL, Bangalore.

(iv) Upgradation of technology at BEL Optronic Limited, Pune, to manufacture Super Gen Image Intensifier Tubes and Micro Channel Plate for Night Vision Equipment.

(c) and (d) For certain military stores listed by Directorate General of Foreign Trade, as revised from time to time, no clearance is required. Prior clearance for export is required for Military Stores, which are of strategic importance for our defence forces.

Permission to services personnel to appear in civil services examinations

801. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that personnel of other ranks of Air Force and other services are not permitted to appear in Civil Services Examinations etc., now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Governments propose to reconsider this decision and permit them to appear in these examinations as before?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The personnel below officers rank (PBOR) of Armed Forces are permitted to appear in Civil Services Examinations etc. However, the PBOR in the Air Force are permitted to apply for Civil Services Examinations after completion of 7 years of service including training period.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Acquisition of Fighter Aircrafts for IAF

802. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to acquire 126 new fighter aircrafts for Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision not to phase out the MIG's; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government constantly review the security environment and accordingly decide to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness.

(b) It would not be in the interest of national security to give details.

(c) and (d) As various aircraft complete their technical life or otherwise lose their utility, they are phased out and new aircraft inducted. Where possible, selective upgrades of the aircraft are carried out.

Purchase of Ship Chandlers for Indian Navy

803. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ship chandler purchases in the Indian Navy was made from middlemen instead of from the original equipment manufacturer at Visakhapatnam's Eastern Naval Command;